

Message Text

UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 01 STATE 060612

67

ORIGIN EUR-02

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SS-10 /013 R

66613

DRAFTED BY: EUR/P:WJGEHRON

APPROVED BY: EUR/P:WJGEHRON

S/S-MR. LUERS

----- 024593

R 291924Z MAR 74

FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO USMISSION NATO

UNCLAS STATE 060612

FOLLOWING REPEAT STATE 060612 ACTION MOSCOW INFO PARIS MAR 26TH

QUOTE

UNCLAS STATE 060612

TOSEC 74

E.O. 11652:N/S

TAGS: PFOR, FR

SUBJECT: FRENCH AMBASSADOR LETTER TO WASHINGTON POST

1. FOLLOWING IS TEXT OF LETTER FROM FRENCH AMBASSADOR PUBLISHED IN WASHINGTON POST MARCH 26:

2. QUOTE IT WAS WITH SURPRISE AND, INDEED, INDIGNATION THAT I READ THE CAPTION UNDER MR. JOBERT'S PHOTO PUBLISHED IN THE ISSUE OF SATURDAY, MARCH 23, OF THE WASHINGTON POST. MOREOVER, THE (EVANS AND NOVAK COLUMN) ENTITLED "MR. NIXON'S CHALLENGE TO EUROPE" QUESTIONS THE FRENCH POLICY IN TERMS WHICH ARE REGRETTABLE, AND IT CONTAINS APPRAISALS WHICH CALL FOR AN ANSWER.

ACTUALLY, SOME OF THE ACCUSATIONS ARE SO OUTLANDISH THAT THEY WOULD BE LAUGHABLE IF IT WERE NOT SUCH A SERIOUS MATTER
UNCLASSIFIED

UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 02 STATE 060612

FOR ALL OF US.

(1) THE FRENCH FOREIGN MINISTER NEVER ADVISED THE SYRIAN GOVERNMENT, OR ANY OTHER ARAB COUNTRY, "DON'T LIFT THE OIL BOYCOTT." THIS IS PURE FABRICATION AND AT THE VERY LIMITS OF SLANDER. IF YOU DISCOVER ANY STATEMENT OR DECLARATION BY THE FRENCH GOVERNMENT IMPLYING A HOSTILE POLICY ON THE PART OF FRANCE VIS-A-VIS THE UNITED STATES IN THE MIDDLE EAST, PLEASE LET ME KNOW.

FURTHERMORE, WHY WOULD MR. JOBERT HAVE ADVISED PRECISELY SYRIA ABOUT LIFTING THE OIL EMBARGO? SYRIA IS ONE OF THE FEW COUNTRIES IN THE MIDDLE EAST THAT HAS NO OIL.

WE WERE NEVER IN FAVOR OF ANY EMBARGO, FOR IT IS NOT IN THE INTEREST OF FRANCE OR ANYONE ELSE, IT MAKES THE PRICES OF CRUDE OIL RISE BY CREATING A SHORTAGE ON THE INTERNATIONAL MARKET, AND WE ARE FAR MORE AFFECTED BY THE INCREASE IN PRICES THAN THE UNITED STATES. REMEMBER THAT FRANCE IS DEPENDENT ON MIDDLE EAST OIL FOR ALMOST 80 PERCENT OF ITS NEEDS. MOREOVER, AN EMBARGO SETS A VERY DANGEROUS EXAMPLE FOR EVERYBODY.

WHAT SOME PEOPLE SEEM TO CONSIDER AN INTOLERABLE CRITICISM OF AMERICAN POLICY IN THE MIDDLE EAST IS NO MORE THAN THE EXPRESSION OF A FRENCH POLICY WHICH HAS CONSTANTLY AFFIRMED ITS GOAL FOR THE PAST SEVEN YEARS, AND MANY IN YOUR COUNTRY HAVE NOW RECOGNIZED THAT THIS POLICY IS WELL FOUNDED.

(2) FAR FROM BEING OPPOSED IN WHATEVER MANNER TO THE EFFORTS CURRENTLY BEING MADE TO RESTORE PEACE IN THE MIDDLE EAST, IT IS THE FRENCH GOVERNMENT THAT IN RECENT YEARS HAS CONTINUALLY DRAWN THE ATTENTION OF GOVERNMENTS AND OF WORLD PUBLIC OPINION TO THE MAJOR THREAT TO PEACE CAUSED BY THE MAINTENANCE OF THE SITUATION THAT HAS EXISTED IN THE MIDDLE EAST SINCE THE 1967 WAR. ON MANY OCCASIONS, THE FRENCH GOVERNMENT HAD EXPRESSED ITS PREOCCUPATIONS TO ALL THE GOVERNMENTS CONCERNED AND HAD SEIZED THE HIGHEST INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATIONS OF THIS PROBLEM WILL BEFORE IT WAS AT THE CRUX OF THE AMERICAN GOV-
UNCLASSIFIED

UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 03 STATE 060612

ERNMENT'S PREOCCUPATIONS. IT WAS NOT BECAUSE OF US THAT THE AMERICAN GOVERNMENT DELIBERATELY KEPT FRANCE, AND THE EUROPE OF WHICH IT IS A PART, OUTSIDE THE CURRENT ATTEMPTS TO REACH A SETTLEMENT. THERE IS HERE A REGRETTABLE "SPLITISM" AFFECTING THE EFFORTS THAT COULD HAVE BEEN MADE JOINTLY BY ALL THOSE WHO WERE DIRECTLY INVOLVED IN THE RESTORATION OF PEACE.

(3) IT IS ABSURD TO IMAGINE THAT THE EURO-ARAB PROJECT OF COOPERATION AND THE CONFERENCE PROPOSED BY THE NINE FOR NEXT FALL COULD JEOPARDIZE THE PRESENT AMERICAN EFFORTS. IN FACT, EUROPEAN INFLUENCE IN THE MIDDLE EAST IS IN THE VERY INTEREST OF THE WESTERN WORLD, OF THE UNITED STATES AND OF PEACE IN GENERAL. THE COOPERATION OF THE NINE-- AS A COMMUNITY--WILL BE A FACTOR OF BALANCE AND STABILITY IN THE AREA: THIS IS IN THE INTEREST BOTH OF THE ARABS AND OF THE ISRAELIS. PRESIDENT NIXON HIMSELF SAID:

"IT IS IN THE INTEREST OF ISRAEL ITSELF THAT THE UNITED STATES BE THE FRIEND OF ISRAEL'S NEIGHBORS." WHY COULD WHAT IS TRUE FOR THE UNITED STATES NOT BE TRUE FOR THE EUROPEANS?

(4) I BELIEVE IN FACT THAT THE PRESENT DIFFICULTIES STEM NOT FROM THE DIFFERENT WAYS OF EVALUATING THE NEED TO RESTORE PEACE IN THE MIDDLE EAST, BUT QUITE OBVIOUSLY FROM THE CONCEPTS SOME PEOPLE HAVE HERE IN THE UNITED STATES OF THE NATURE OF THE RELATIONS THAT SHOULD EXIST BETWEEN THE UNITED STATES AND EUROPE WHILE EUROPE IS BEING ORGANIZED, ALBEIT AS AMERICAN DIPLOMACY HAD LONG HOPED IT WOULD BE. THE PUBLIC STATEMENTS MADE IN RECENT WEEKS ON THIS SUBJECT OF CAPITAL IMPORTANCE BOTH BY WASHINGTON AND BY THE NINE, LEAVE NO DOUBT ABOUT THIS, AND AS A EUROPEAN, I CANNOT HELP DEPLORING THE EFFORTS AT DIVISION, WHICH ARE BECOMING APPARENT, AIMED AT KEEPING, IN ONE WAY OR ANOTHER, A EUROPEAN DETERMINATION FROM TAKING SHAPE THAT WOULD HOWEVER BE A VERY IMPORTANT FACTOR OF STABILITY IN THE DIFFICULTIES OF INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS WE ARE EXPERIENCING TODAY.

LET ME TELL YOU IN CONCLUSION THAT THE COMPARISON BETWEEN
UNCLASSIFIED

UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 04 STATE 060612

THE RECENT TOUGHNESS OF THE AMERICAN AUTHORITIES TOWARDS
RF
ANCE AND THE BOMBING OF HANOI JUST BEFORE THE 1972
SUMMIT MEETING IS NOT ONLY SHOCKING FOR THE OLDEST
FRIEND AND ALLY OF THE AMERICAN PEOPLE, BUT IS THE EXPRESSION OF A PSYCHOLOGICAL ESCALATION AS REGRETTABLE AS IT IS INCOMPREHENSIBLE.

WE HAVE IMPORTANT PROBLEMS TO SOLVE. IT REQUIRES ABOVE ALL FAIRNESS, SELF-RESTRAINT AND AN OBJECTIVE ASSESSMENT OF THE TRUE FACTS. UNQUOTE.

3. EDITOR'S NOTE FOLLOWS LETTER: QUOTE THE PHOTO CAPTION TO WHICH THE AMBASSADOR REFERS WAS, INDEED, MISLEADING IN THAT IT QUOTED MR. JOBERT AS SAYING TO SYRIA, "DON'T

LIFT THE OIL BOYCOTT." THE QUOTE WAS INTENDED TO REFLECT THE INFORMATION IN THE EVANS-NOVAK COLUMN RATHER THAN AN ACTUAL STATEMENT BY MR. JOBERT. WE REGRET ANY MISUNDERSTANDING THIS MAY HAVE CAUSED. AS TO THE CONTENT OF THE COLUMN, MESSRS. EVANS AND NOVAK REPLY: WE REPEAT WHAT OUR COLUMN STATED: THE FRENCH INTRIGUED WITH THE SYRIANS TO CONTINUE THE ANTI-U.S. OIL BOYCOTT." UNQUOTE. RUSH UNQUOTE KISSINGER

UNCLASSIFIED

NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: PFOR
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 29 MAR 1974
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: n/a
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: n/a
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment:
Disposition Date: 01 JAN 1960
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1974STATE060612
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: EUR/P:WJGEHRON
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Film Number: n/a
From: SECSTATE WASHDC
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1974/newtext/t1974031/aaaaaay.tel
Line Count: 177
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE
Office: ORIGIN EUR
Original Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 4
Previous Channel Indicators:
Previous Classification: n/a
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: shawdg
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 11 JUL 2002
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <11 JUL 2002 by elbezefj>; APPROVED <12 DEC 2002 by shawdg>
Review Markings:

Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
30 JUN 2005

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: FRENCH AMBASSADOR LETTER TO WASHINGTON POST
TAGS: FR
To: NATO
Type: TE
Markings: Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005